

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("____") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—") or placed in double brackets ("[[]"]), as applicable:

1. (Currently Amended) A kit for introducing a ~~surgical~~ gastric implant into a stomach ~~cavity~~ in the ~~body~~ of a patient to treat obesity, the kit comprising:

~~a surgical~~ an intragastric implant for implanting in ~~said cavity~~ the stomach in order to reduce its volume, said implant being expandable from a configuration for introduction into the ~~cavity~~ stomach to a therapeutic configuration within the ~~cavity~~ stomach; and

a cartridge for packaging said implant in the introduction configuration, said cartridge being provided with an opener member activatable by positive action enabling the cartridge to pass from a closed configuration in which the cartridge confines the implant in the implant's introduction configuration, to an open configuration in which the cartridge allows said implant to expand;

wherein the cartridge includes locking means functionally connected to the opener member and capable on its own, without requiring any external action on said locking means, of holding the cartridge in the closed configuration, said cartridge further comprises a sleeve provided with at least one side opening formed along its length, said opening being closed by said locking means when said cartridge is in the closed configuration, and said opening being disengaged to allow the implant to expand when said cartridge is in the open configuration.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 12, wherein the sleeve is substantially tubular in shape and is slit along all or part of its length, said slit constituting the side opening.

4. (Currently Amended) The kit according to claim 12, wherein the sleeve is made of a material that is flexible, but not substantially elastic.

5. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 12, wherein the sleeve is made of a fabric having two opposite edges locked together by the locking means so that the fabric takes up a substantially tubular shape.

6. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 5, wherein the fabric is made of woven polyamide threads.

7. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 12, wherein at least a portion of the structure of the cartridge is covered in a coating for making the cartridge slide more easily against an external surface.

8. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 7, wherein the coating includes a material selected from the group consisting of:

- a biocompatible elastomer, of the silicone or polyurethane type;
- paraxylilene;
- polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP); and
- sodium hyaluronate.

9. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1, wherein the cartridge is provided with a thread having a first portion sewn as a single-thread chain stitch so as to form said locking means, and having a second portion that remains free and forms the opener member that can be actuated in traction.

10. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 9, wherein the periphery of the side opening is provided with eyelets for being assembled together by single-thread chain-stitch sewing in order to close said opening.

11. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 10, wherein the eyelets are defined by meshes in the fabric situated close to and along said edges.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim [[13]] 1, wherein the intragastric implant is an intragastric balloon comprising a first flexible bag defining a predetermined inside volume, said first flexible bag being provided with first connection means for receiving a connection member for connection to a first source of a fluid in order to enable said first bag to be expanded in the stomach by being filled with the fluid.

15. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 14, wherein the balloon includes at least one second flexible bag of predetermined volume and provided with second connection means so as to enable it to be connected to a second source of fluid.

16. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 15, wherein said at least one second flexible bag is of smaller volume than the first flexible bag, and is located inside the first flexible bag.

17. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for introducing ~~a surgical~~ an intragastric implant into a ~~cavity within the body~~ the stomach of a patient in order to treat obesity, said implant being designed to be implanted in ~~said cavity~~ the stomach in order to reduce its volume and being expandable from a configuration for introduction into the ~~cavity~~ stomach to a therapeutic configuration within the ~~cavity~~ stomach, said cartridge being designed to package said ~~surgical~~ intragastric implant in the ~~surgical implant's~~ introduction configuration and being provided with an opener member ~~that is~~ activatable by positive action enabling the cartridge to pass from a closed configuration in which the cartridge confines the ~~surgical~~ intragastric implant in the ~~surgical~~ intragastric implant's introduction configuration, to an open configuration in which the cartridge allows said ~~surgical~~ intragastric implant to expand, ~~wherein the said~~ cartridge includes including locking means functionally connected to the opener member and ~~serving~~ capable on its own, without any external action on said opener means, of holding to hold the cartridge in the closed configuration, said cartridge further comprises a sleeve provided with at least one side opening formed in its length, said side opening being closed by said locking means when said cartridge is in the closed configuration, and said opening being disengaged to allow the surgical implant to expand when said cartridge is in the open configuration ~~without any external action on said opener means.~~

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 17, wherein the sleeve is substantially tubular in shape and is slit along at least a part of its length, said slit constituting said side opening.

20. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 17 wherein, the sleeve is made of a material that is flexible, but not substantially elastic.

21. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 17, wherein the sleeve is made of a fabric having two opposite edges locked together by the locking means so that the fabric takes up a substantially tubular shape.

22. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 21, wherein the fabric is made of woven polyamide.

23. (Currently Amended) The cartridge according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 17, wherein at least a portion of its surface is covered in a coating for making the cartridge slide more easily against an external surface.

24. (Previously Presented) The cartridge according to claim 23, wherein the coating includes a material selected from the group consisting of:

a biocompatible elastomer, of the silicone or polyurethane type;

paraxylilene;

polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP); and

sodium hyaluronate.

25. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 17, wherein the cartridge further includes a thread having a first portion sewn with a single-thread chain stitch so as to form the locking means, and having a second portion that remains free and forms the opener member that can be actuated in traction.

26. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 25, wherein the periphery of the side opening is provided with eyelets for being assembled by sewing with a single-thread chain stitch in order to close said opening.

27. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 26, wherein the sleeve is made of a fabric having two opposite edges locked together by the locking means so that the fabric takes a substantially tubular shape;

wherein the eyelets are formed by meshes in the fabric situated close to and along said edges.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a kit for introducing ~~a surgical~~ an intragastric implant into a ~~cavity within the body~~ stomach of a patient to treat obesity, the method comprising the steps of:

supplying or making ~~a surgical~~ an intragastric implant for implanting in said ~~cavity~~ stomach, said implant being expandable from a configuration for introduction ~~into~~ in the ~~cavity~~ stomach to a therapeutic configuration within the ~~cavity~~ stomach;

supplying or making a cartridge for packaging said surgical implant in the introduction configuration; and

providing said cartridge with an opener member ~~(3)~~ activatable to enable by positive action enabling the cartridge to pass from a closed configuration in which the cartridge is suitable for confining the surgical implant in surgical the intragastric implant's introduction configuration, to an open configuration in which the cartridge is suitable for allowing said surgical implant to expand; and

locking the cartridge in the closed configuration, in which the cartridge is provided with locking means capable on its own, without requiring any external action on said ~~opener member~~ locking means, of holding the cartridge in the closed configuration, and in which said locking means is functionally connected to the opener member, and locking the cartridge in substantially the shape of a sleeve, the sleeve including at least one axial opening at one of the ends of said sleeve.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[31]]~~ 30, further comprising the step of inserting the surgical implant in the sleeve by:

shaping the surgical implant into its introduction configuration; and

constraining the surgical implant progressively along its length by means of a jig to reduce the cross-section of said surgical implant while simultaneously covering the surgical implant in the sleeve in the closed configuration.

33. (Canceled).

34. (Cancelled).